



## EPA Adds new site to the Superfund List

**Wilcox Oil Company Site**  
Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma

Date 2013

ODEQ logo here

### This fact sheet will tell you about:

- What is Superfund
- The NPL
- The Superfund Process
- The Wilcox Refinery Site
- Current status
- Activities completed
- What happens next
- How EPA and ODEQ involve the public in cleanup decisions.
- ATSDR
- Contacts and more information
- Recommendations to the public

### What is Superfund?

Briefly, Superfund is the federal government's program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

Superfund is also the name given to the environmental program established to address abandoned hazardous waste sites. It is also the name of the fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ([CERCLA](#)). CERCLA was amended by the [Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act](#) (SARA) in 1986.

CERCLA is the law that allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to

clean up such sites and to compel responsible parties to perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-lead cleanups. This law authorizes EPA to conduct two kinds of response actions:

- Short-term removals
- Long-Term remedial response actions
- If you need to add more (to enforce against PRPs, to involve states, to ensure community involvement, to ensure long term protectiveness. Today, over 40,000 sites had been evaluated in the nation over the past 20+ years. Many requiring no further response actions.

### The NPL

The National Priorities List or NPL, is a list of top priority sites to be addressed through the Superfund Law. Initially 406 sites were listed when established in 1983, currently over 1685 sites have been identified and added to the list, while the EPA and the states continues to evaluate potential future sites. With the current rulemaking announcement the EPA is adding the Wilcox Oil Refinery to this list.

### The Superfund Process

The Superfund cleanup process begins with site discovery or notification to EPA of possible releases of hazardous substances. Sites are discovered by various parties, including citizens, State agencies, and EPA Regional offices. EPA then evaluates the



potential for a release of hazardous substances from the site through a step-by-step process that include site assessments, site inspections, and evaluation through a ranking process to identify those sites that merit to be added to the list of top priorities, the NPL. Once on this list, EPA determines the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment. Opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process, which is shown in the graphic attached to this fact sheet.

#### **The Wilcox Refinery site**

Wilcox Oil Company is an inactive and abandoned oil refinery located in Creek County, Oklahoma. The site consists of contaminated areas and surface water bodies due to releases from the former Lorraine and former Wilcox Refineries that operated from mid 1920s to early 1960s. The location of the releases from the two refineries are considered to be a single site composed of a commingled release and covers approximately 125 acres.

Major operational areas include the former Wilcox Oil Refinery, the Lorraine Refinery and the product storage area (tank farm). Contaminants of concerns on site contain elevated concentrations of metals and organic compounds in the former storage tank areas, surface soils, surface impoundment and sediments. Elevated levels of metals were also detected in three private residential wells on site, and from three wells adjacent to the property.

#### **Current status**

The EPA works as a lead agency in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) as a support agency to conduct the Superfund step-by-step process. At this times the following actions have been completed:

#### **Activities completed**

A Preliminary Assessment conducted by ODEQ in 2008.

A Site Inspection conducted by ODEQ in 2009.

An Expanded Site Inspection conducted by ODEQ in 2011.

A Hazard Ranking System package completed by EPA in May 2013.

Proposal to the NPL on \_\_\_\_\_

Added to the NPL on \_\_\_\_\_

#### **What happens next**

EPA is currently searching for Potential Responsible Parties (PRP(s)).

A major goal of the Superfund program is to encourage PRPs to remediate hazardous waste sites. The enforcement process normally used by EPA to enlist PRP involvement may include five major efforts:

- First, EPA attempts to identify PRPs as early as possible.
- Second, EPA will encourage PRPs to do the work at a site.
- Third, if EPA believe the PRP is willing and capable of doing the work, EPA will attempt to negotiate an enforcement agreement. This type of agreement

may take the form of an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC).

- Fourth, if a settlement could not be reached, EPA can use its authority to issue a unilateral administrative order or directly file suit against the PRP(s).
- Fifth, if the PRP(s) do not perform the response action or no PRP(s) are available, the EPA will undertake the work, EPA will file suit against the PRP(s) when practicable.

This is called cost recovery and it is a major priority under the Superfund program.

The enforcement process will lead to the completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, this determines the nature and extent of contamination, evaluate risks, tests whether certain technologies are capable of treating the contamination, and evaluates the cost and performance of technologies that could be used to clean up the site.

Based on results of the feasibility study portion of this phase, EPA will develop a Proposed Plan for cleaning up the site

#### How EPA and ODEQ involve the public in cleanup decisions.

- Requesting public comments on proposed cleanup plans.
- Meeting with the public, providing updates and fact sheets.
- Mailing list, websites.
- Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)  
A TAG grant is available to a local citizen's group to hire a technical advisor to

interpret site studies and/or site-related health information for area residents.

#### ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is the principal federal public health agency involved with hazardous waste issues. ATSDR advises the EPA, as well as other federal and state agencies, community members and other interested parties, on the health impacts of Superfund sites. The agency recommends actions that need to be taken to safeguard people's health. It does this by issuing public health advisories, assessments and consultations.

ATSDR provides information of the most common contaminants at Superfund sites by issuing short, easy-to-read fact sheets as those included with this fact sheet.

#### For future information

Repository library  
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Internet sites  
[www.xyx](http://www.xyx)

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#### Contacts

EPA Removal      Mark Hayes,  
214-665-2705 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free),  
Hayes.Mark@epa.gov

EPA Remedial      Bart Canellas,  
214-665-6662 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll free) ,  
Canellas.Bart@epa.gov

EPA/CIC      Bill Little,

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214-665-8131 or 1.800.533.3508,  
Little.Bill@epa.gov

EPA Press Inquiries from the media should  
be directed to the Region 6 Press Office  
214-665-2200

ATSDR CAPTAIN Patrick Young  
U.S. Public Health Service  
214-665-8562 or 1.888.422.8737 (toll free)  
Young.Patrick @epa.gov

ODEQ Todd Downham  
405-702-5136  
Todd.downham@deq.ok.gov

**Mailing list**

- a. Form or phone number to request  
be added to mailing list

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DRAFT

**Recommendations for people living on or near contaminated properties:**

- Proper hygiene, frequent hand washing, rinse outside toys
- Avoid / restrict access to areas of exposed oily waste
- Reduce exposure to bare soil in accessible areas
- Planting ground cover or shrubbery to reduce exposure to bare soil
- Minimize annual tilling and cultivation adjacent to residences
- Mulch play areas to avoid soil dust and bare soil
- Keep fruit and vegetable gardens away from oily sludge areas
- Use gloves to avoid direct contact with soils.
- Soil should be thoroughly shaken off clothes and footwear, before entering homes.
- Use and keep a doormat or brush for footwear placed outside the door.
- Construction of raised beds filled with purchased soil is an option for avid vegetable gardener
- Rinse and launder gardening clothing promptly to avoid bring contaminated soil into the home
- Wash hands after garden work
- Wash floors and vacuum carpets regularly
- Test home for lead paint
- Participate in children blood lead test programs

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Commented [r6]: Wouldn't this just spread the dust...if they don't have a HEPA vacuum?

**Additional charts and  
reference/informational material**

- Chart of the Superfund Process (the long one, the one with many steps, shows the RI/FS is more than one block, included RI, HHRA, BERA, FS, PP, ROD, etc. The one EPA calls the snake, will need to share this with ODEQ FYI if they agree).
- ATSDR Lead fact sheet two pages with lead as a Potential Contaminant of Concern (PCOC) information.
- ATSDR TPH fact sheet two pages with TPH/oily sludge and PAHs as a Potential Contaminant of Concern information.